

Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently amended): In a VCT system having a phaser coupled to a shaft, which can be a driving or driven shaft, an apparatus comprising:

the phaser having a rotor ~~irreversibly connected to one end~~ formed as part of the shaft, wherein the shaft is an extension of the rotor, free of any region having openings for accommodating independent fastening members, thereby the axial and radial dimension of the apparatus is reduced.
2. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the independent fastening members comprise screws.
3. (Currently amended): ~~the~~ The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotor is irreversibly connected to one end of the shaft by pressing the rotor onto a straight hub; pressing the rotor onto a hub using a straight spline on an inside surface of the rotor and a helical spline on a corresponding surface of the shaft or vice versa; brazing the rotor onto the shaft; swaging the rotor onto the shaft; or ballizing the rotor onto the shaft where the shaft is a hollow component.
4. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotor is machined as part of the shaft.
5. (Currently amended): In a VCT system having a phaser coupled to a shaft, which can be a driving or driven shaft, an apparatus comprising:

a means for ~~irreversibly connecting~~ for forming the shaft as part of a rotor of the phaser ~~to one end of the shaft~~ free of any region having openings for accommodating independent fastening members, thereby the axial and radial dimension of the apparatus is reduced.

6. (Currently amended): A method for coupling part of a VCT device to a shaft, comprising the steps of:

providing a phaser having a rotor rotating in relation to an opposite part of the phaser, wherein the phaser is axially reduced by eliminating at least one part of the phaser; and

~~irreversibly connecting the rotor to~~ integrally from the shaft as part of the rotor.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the rotor is irreversibly connected to one end of the shaft by pressing the rotor onto a straight hub; pressing the rotor onto a hub using a straight spline on an inside surface of the rotor and a helical spline on a corresponding surface of the shaft or vice versa; brazing the rotor onto the shaft; swaging the rotor onto the shaft; or ballizing the rotor onto the shaft where the shaft is a hollow component.

8. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the ~~rotor~~ shaft is machined as part of the ~~shaft~~ rotor.

9. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotor has an outer circumference having at least one slot thereon for affixing a vane thereto.

10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the rotor has an outer circumference having at least one slot thereon for affixing a vane thereto.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet(s) of drawings include changes as listed below. The attached replacement sheet(s) replace the original sheet(s).

The changes are as follows.

A proposed drawing correction is included herewith in reply to the instant Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Specifically Figures 1 and 2 were now designated by the legend --Prior Art--

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheet(s)